

**Kanegasaki Sister City Committee**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**December 15, 2010**  
**4:00 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge**

**Members Present:** Amy Springer (Chair), Denise Boyd, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Byron Koh , Aaron Kropf, Kathy Woods Masalski, Helen MacMellon, Nancy Pagano

**Others:** Aaron Hayden (Select Board Liaison)

**Members Absent:** Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce

**Minutes of December 20, 2010:** Accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$2,629

**Treasurer's Report**

Florence needs original invoices and statements acknowledging purchases. She will submit them in 3 copies to Town Hall; it will take 3 weeks for checks to arrive.

The Committee discussed the outstanding bills and who needs to be compensated for the Mayor's visit.

**Miyuki's baby photos were appreciated.** She will be back in her office in February.

**Amy's Notes from KSCC 12/15 meeting**

**Announcements:**

1. A big congratulations to everyone for how well the Mayor's visit went off, there was much good will all around and a lot of important connections were made.
2. Mr. Takahashi has told us the dates of the Kanegasaki students' visit will be Mar 19-28 (a Saturday to a Monday), we assume they will be here towards the latter half of that week. We have reserved the week of Mar 21-28 for the welcome banner over S. Pleasant St.
3. In April 2011 the library of Kanegasaki will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their Emily Dickinson Resource center (composed of books sent them from the Jones Library). We should do something to acknowledge their anniversary, there was some possibility they might invite someone from Amherst to come for the celebration, but it was not definite (some discussion followed about who the committee might nominate if such an invitation arrived).
4. August, 2013 will be the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Amherst (the school exchanges have actually been going on longer than this). While this is a long way off, we should not forget to plan a commemorative event in Amherst at this time.

**Future directions and ideas:**

1. We have some ideas about recruiting new members following up on events during the Mayor's visit. The recruiting subcommittee (Jule, Amy and Aaron H) will make contact with potential new members.
2. We had lots of discussions about sending students to Kanegasaki before and during the Mayor's visit. Not much to report yet but Maria Geryk, the interim superintendent and Mike Hayes, the middle school principal are very supportive. The subcommittee on Amherst students will meet again in the coming year to talk about this more.

3. We agreed to send New Year's cards to the Mayor and to the Lifelong Learning Center, cards (from the special ones made up by ARHS students) were sent around the table to be signed and taken by Jule to address and mail.

4. One way to keep some communication between the two towns would be some type of internet community, where we could post pictures and brief messages about town events and so forth. There was some discussion about what might work and the matter will be discussed further.

5. Amy suggested that we work on a kind of brochure or checklist on protocols for Amherst residents visiting Kanegasaki, to be available for future times when we have visitors going there. We could similarly have a list of protocols for receiving visitors from Kanegasaki, to provide to town officials and others who might meet with delegations from Kanegasaki in the future. Yuko had expressed an interest in this in the past, and so Amy will contact her about helping with this project.

6. Amy and Jule may put on another "Hana mi in January" party next month, time and place to be determined. Amy suggested that if this becomes a big event it might be tied into some fundraising function, but probably not for this coming month.

7. There was some discussion about how to distribute funds, and whether it might be possible to have a fund the committee can use to pay for alcohol when we are hosting Kanegasaki guests. We cannot use our funds in the Town account to pay for these costs, and it might be nice to have an account, like "Friends of Kanegasaki" account that can be used for this, rather than depending on individual members to cover all of these costs. Some members were concerned that it would violate town regulations to have an outside account and it was agreed that this would be important to determine. The members agreed that being an official town committee was important for our Sister City responsibilities. Amy said she would look into town regulations and options for accounts, but that nothing would be done that would interfere with being an official town committee.

8. Because some members cannot come on Wednesdays, we discussed alternating our meeting on Wednesdays and Tuesdays in the coming year. Accordingly, the next meeting was set for Tuesday January 25, 2011, 4pm at the Bangs Center. I mentioned the subcommittee on Amherst students, but forgot to list its members: it is Amy, Aaron K and Denise.

#### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Members need to sign last page of the e-mailed Conflict of Interest statement and send it to Town all (if they bring it to the meeting Amy will bring it to Town Hall for them).

#### **Two Commemorative events in Kanegasaki discussed**

Kanegasaki will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their Emily Dickinson Center in April and their Sister City relationships in August 2013.

#### **New Year's Cards**

Two New Year's Cards were signed by the Committee and sent to Kanegasaki.

**Committee Agreed:** After bills for the Mayor's visit are paid, an honorarium will be granted.

#### **New Ideas for Next Year Discussed**

Possible visits of students from Amherst to Kanegasaki.

The Committee might provide information, protocols for those visiting Kanegasaki.

An Internet community might be set up between the two communities. The computers in the Senior Center might be used. The problems in translations were acknowledged; pictures better might be better than words.

Possible other ways to deposit and use the Committee's funds. The pitfalls were noted: Town rules, excessive paperwork, etc. There is time to look further into this matter.

A possible annual January, fundraising event. It could be at Boltwood or Jule's house.

A Friends of Kanegasaki Committee might be established.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:52 PM.**

**Next Meeting of Full Committee: January 25, 2011 4 PM at the Bangs Center**

**Respectfully submitted by Byron Koh, Secretary**